

## Merseybeat

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## Merseybeat is back on the beat



The cast of *Merseybeat* is back on the beat with a new series which returns to BBC One in November.

This is the fourth series of the popular police drama which, for the first time, has been shot entirely in Liverpool.

Mal Young, executive producer on *Merseybeat* and BBC Controller of Continuing Drama Series says: “We’ve always had good characters and good storylines on *Merseybeat* but the series was a bit anonymous because it wasn’t rooted anywhere. Visually, Liverpool is going to form a very nice backdrop but what is up front is still that space to investigate stories about what it is to be a police officer in a modern-day police force.”

Chris Murray, series creator and executive producer, agrees: “On series four, without losing any of the warmth of previous series, we wanted to move the show into Liverpool to tell tougher and

more urban stories, which I feel confident we’ve done. The show is still about the people behind the uniform but it is more streamlined and tied to every-day policing than it used to be.”

Liverpool, like any other big city, offers a wide range of subjects for *Merseybeat* to delve into. This series sees how the team tackles internet abuse, when a child goes into an internet chat room and meets someone who’s not who they say they are; looks after a young boy whose father has left him home alone while he has gone off on holiday; and reacts to a woman who steals a baby from a maternity unit.

“This series, we’ve tried to find areas that people have opinions about, that they care about, things that are topical and they can relate to,” explains Young. “We all see the headlines but *Merseybeat* gives us the chance to see how the police might handle a particular situation.”

And in the new series viewers meet the CID team for the first time, headed up by DI Pete Hammond (Mark Womack). Pete is a hard-nosed officer who pulls no punches. Through the CID team we are able to see more of the complete picture as to how the Newton Park police station operates.

Says Murray: “By introducing CID we’ve been able to explore whole new areas of storytelling. With the creation of a new police station, set right in the middle of a living urban community, I think we have firmly placed the show in a much stronger and more contemporary context. We’ve always had a strong ensemble cast but, in this series, they’re better than ever.”

Young expands: “We purposefully didn’t bring CID into the first three series because we wanted the pace of the show to concentrate on the uniformed officers and to establish them. Now, by introducing CID, we have the chance to investigate bigger crimes: murders, big drug rackets, things that people are really affected by day to day.

“We also found that there was a lot of competition between the uniform and CID departments and so in the new series, we introduce a new character called Glenn Freeman, played by Liverpool-born actor Scot Williams, who is very ambitious and wants to be in CID and wear plain clothes.”

Scot is a new addition to the series and Mark Womack, Gary Cargill, Tupele Dorgu and Claire Sweeney also join the cast. It is no coincidence that all five originate from the Liverpool area which is something that Mal Young felt was vital for the success of the show.

“I decided that any new characters coming into the series had to be from Liverpool because I wanted them to form part of the relocation of the show. So, we’ve got some new actors who are in big roles for the first time and it has been great to see them develop their characters. And alongside them there’s the recognisable faces of Mark Womack and Claire Sweeney, who joins the cast towards the end of the series.”

And many of the old faces will be returning too. Newly-promoted Superintendent Jim Oulton (John McArdle) heads up operations at Newton Park, assisted by Inspector Charlie Eden (Leslie Ash). They, together with the rest of the regular team of PC Jackie Brown (Joanna Taylor), PC Jodie Finn (Josie D’Arby) and PC Larry “Tiger” Barton (Chris Walker), were struggling to come to terms with the death of their colleague, Steve Traynor (Jonathan Kerrigan), in the final episode of the last series.

But life soon becomes even more complicated for the team as they try to juggle the daily challenges that their job brings together with the pressures that they face in their personal lives. Larry is planning for his wedding; Charlie and Pete have a secret past which they resolve to keep from the rest of the team; and Glen reveals what has been keeping him up all night!

“We probably go home less with the characters in this series because the stories have become much bigger and more involving,” says Young. “But we do see their home lives really come crashing into the police station. *Merseybeat* is very character-driven

and viewers get an opportunity to see what it’s like to be a police officer, whereas something like *The Bill* is much more about police procedure, and so I definitely think there is room for both.”

**Check out the *Merseybeat* website at:**  
[www.bbc.co.uk/merseybeat](http://www.bbc.co.uk/merseybeat)

## Cast credits

Superintendent Jim Oulton ..... John McArdle  
Inspector Charlie Eden ..... Leslie Ash  
DI Pete Hammond ..... Mark Womack  
Sergeant Bill Gentle ..... David Hargreaves  
PC Larry Barton ..... Chris Walker  
PC Jackie Brown ..... Joanna Taylor  
PC Jodie Finn ..... Josie D'Arby  
PC Glenn Freeman ..... Scot Williams  
Cust Sgt Lester Cartwright ..... Gary Cargill  
Natalie Vance ..... Tupele Dorgu  
DS Roz Kelly ..... Claire Sweeney (episodes 7-8)

## Production credits

Writers ..... Chris Murray (episodes 1, 2, 3, 4 & 8)  
..... Nick Saltrese (episodes 5 & 7)  
..... Rod Lewis (episode 6)  
Directors ..... Keith Boak (episodes 1 & 3)  
..... Sven Arnstein (episodes 2 & 4)  
..... Adrian Bean (episodes 5 & 7)  
..... Ian Barnes (episodes 6 & 8)  
Line Producer ..... Maria Ward  
Executive Producers ..... Mal Young and Chris Murray  
Directors of Photography ..... Darrell Thornton and Peter Fearon  
Production Designer ..... David Bowes  
Make-up Designer ..... Linda Davie

## Leslie Ash plays Charlie Eden



### Charlie Eden

**Rank:** Inspector

**Marital status:** Single – having left four men standing at the altar!

### Leslie Ash

**Lives:** South London

**Studied:** Italia Conti School

**Previous credits:** *Men Behaving Badly*, *Where The Heart Is*

#### Did you know?

- This isn't Leslie's first role as a policewoman – she previously appeared alongside Jill Gascoigne playing Fred in *CATS Eyes*.
- Leslie and her husband, Lee, own several clubs and bars, including Teatro in London's Soho.
- Leslie's big break came in 1979 when she starred as temptress Steph in the classic teenage angst Mod movie *Quadrophenia*, alongside Phil Daniels, Sting and Ray Winstone.

When Inspector Charlie Eden walked into Newton Park police station at the end of the last series of *Merseybeat* she turned the lives of the officers upside down.

“I think it's true to say that none of the characters' lives have been the same since,” laughs Ash.

“Charlie is very career-minded and wants to prove several points in what is still very much a man's world. I respect the character very much. She's quite hard but I think she's had to be.”

On a personal level, Charlie's life couldn't be more different to that of Leslie's. She is happily married to ex-Leeds United footballer Lee Chapman and they have two sons, Max and Joe. “My family is what keeps me going and they've supported me through some very difficult times over the past couple of years. I couldn't be without them. But Charlie is the complete opposite to me, she has actually left men standing at the altar and I love that about her.

“I don't think that marriage and children is for her and she symbolises what a lot of women her age are now choosing to do. But if I could give her one piece of advice, then I would say that it is okay to mix family life with a career; it's okay to be vulnerable and fall in love with someone, you don't always have to end up being hurt.”

That could prove to be very sound advice as, this series, romance could be on the cards for Charlie when a face from her past walks into her life.

“There's a new character introduced to Newton Park, DI Pete Hammond (Mark Womack). He and Charlie had a romantic history about 15 years ago but Pete is now married to someone else,” explains Ash. “Seeing Pete again really opens up Charlie's vulnerable side and she doesn't want to admit to herself that she still cares for him. There is still a spark between them which they're both in denial about, so it makes for some explosive moments between them and complications could result!”

Pete Hammond is one of the CID team, a new addition to *Merseybeat*. “Introducing CID has had big implications to the storylines of *Merseybeat*, which has been fantastic. This series will see the team tackle murders and much harder storylines. I had to do my first drugs drop this series, which was pretty exciting.”

Another difference with the new series is that it is now filmed in Liverpool city centre, which is something that Leslie has really enjoyed. “I love Liverpool and I've had some really great

experiences filming in the North. London doesn't have the monopoly on cool, Liverpool has everything and more. The bars are great and the restaurant scene is second to none. Mind you, my days of clubbing are definitely behind me! These days, I'm much more likely to be in bed by 9.30pm, which is ironic considering that Lee and I own a couple of bars of our own!"

## Mark Womack plays Pete Hammond



**Pete Hammond**  
**Rank: Detective Inspector**  
**Marital status: Married**

**Mark Womack**  
**Born: Liverpool but now lives in North London**  
**Studied: RADA**  
**Previous credits: *Liverpool 1*, *Hillsborough*, *Clocking Off***

### Did you know?

- Mark is married to actress Samantha Janus and together they have a son called Benjamin.
- Mark is a fan of Liverpool FC.

For Mark Womack, the best thing about landing the part of DI Pete Hammond in the new series of *Merseybeat* is that it has given him the chance to return to his hometown of Liverpool. "It's fantastic to be back," enthuses Womack. "Liverpool is such an amazing city, it's got it all: music, culture, arts and film. Jimmy McGovern and Frank Cottrell Boyce both originate from Liverpool and I also heard a rumour that Andy Garcia might be coming to the area to do some filming, but that could be wishful thinking!"

"My family all still live in the area, as do some of my best mates, including actor Gary Mavers. I would love to live and work here permanently; the only reason I live in London is because that's where my wife and son are."

And this isn't the first time that Mark has played a copper from Liverpool. He played DC Mark Callaghan (better known as Cally) in the ITV drama *Liverpool 1*. Since his days as a detective constable in *Liverpool 1*, Mark has earned a promotion – in *Merseybeat* he is now a detective inspector. "I'm obviously making a habit of playing Scouse coppers," laughs Womack. "But Pete Hammond is very different to Cally. He's a bit mad and brings nothing but trouble to Newton Park, as he's always falling out with his colleagues. He's very hard and not really very likeable – if I had to describe him in one sentence then I would call him the Phil Mitchell of *Merseybeat*!"

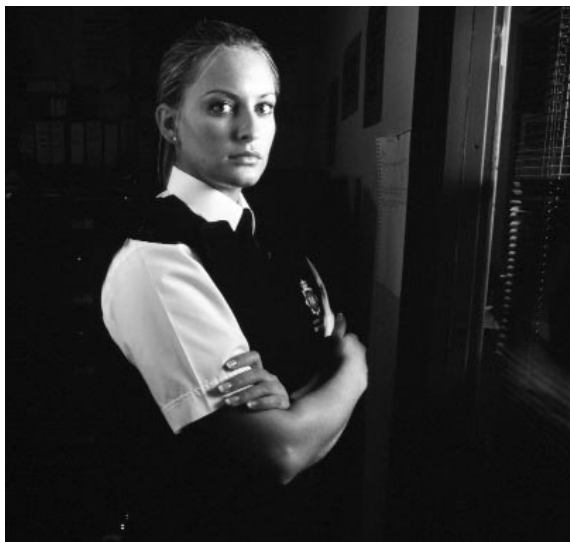
Pete adds a new dimension to the series as he allows the writers to explore the new area of Newton Park's CID. "Pete's been there all the time but we just haven't been aware of him! Having CID at Newton Park allows the writers to drive the plot into new areas. The storylines get grittier as the team is driven into investigating murders and other violent crimes.

"Pete can be very flirtatious and gets on very well with what seems like half the station. He has a history with Charlie Eden and they are undecided whether they should disclose this to Superintendent Jim Oulton (John McArdle). Pete can be aggressive and chauvinistic and he's not very nice really but, because of that, he's really good to play. Cally, on the other hand, was very measured and laid back. Out of the two, I would say that I am

more like Cally as, like him, I fell in love with the main character, Isobel (Samantha Janus)."

Mark and Samantha have been together for four years and have a two-year-old son called Benjamin. Mark also has a seven-year-old son from his first marriage. Since working together on *Liverpool 1*, Mark and Samantha were reunited on *Judge John Deed* and Mark is looking forward to them doing more work together. "Samantha's a brilliant actress and it would be a privilege to work with her more often and, what's more, we could help each other with our lines when we're at home!"

## Joanna Taylor plays Jackie Brown



**Jackie Brown**  
**Rank:** Police Constable  
**Marital status:** Single

**Joanna Taylor**  
**Born:** Born in South London but now lives in Cheshire  
**Studied:** Guildford School of Acting  
**Previous credits:** *Hollyoaks*  
**Upcoming:** A film called *PI: Post Impact*

### Did you know?

- Joanna's fiancé, Danny Murphy, has a cameo role in episode four of *Merseybeat*.

Joanna Taylor is a real-life footballer's wife ... well, nearly! She's engaged to Liverpool FC footballer Danny Murphy and has left behind her southern roots for a new life in the north.

"Liverpool has become my second home now," says Taylor. "I've lived up there for such a long time filming *Hollyoaks* and now *Merseybeat* and the people have always made me very welcome. When I left *Hollyoaks*, I was looking forward to spending more time in London with my family and friends but, when I was offered the part in *Merseybeat*, I couldn't turn it down. And then I met Danny so hopefully I will be living in the North West for life.

"With my job I don't think it really matters where you live because you can end up filming anywhere in the country or even the world. Earlier this year I was in Bulgaria making a film called *Deep Impact* with Dean Cain. That was good fun but it was very cold in March when we were out there."

Joanna returns to the screen this autumn playing feisty copper PC Jackie Brown in the new series of *Merseybeat*.

"This series, Jackie gets herself involved in a love triangle with Inspector Eden (Leslie Ash) and the new Detective Inspector, Pete Hammond (Mark Womack)," explains Taylor. "Pete and Charlie have a history together which Jackie is fully aware of, but I don't think she really cares. She just steams in there with Pete, although I think Pete is just as much to blame as he is married with a young baby.

"Jackie is very ambitious but she's not a bad character really. She doesn't get on that well with anyone at Newton Park because she's so career orientated, whereas someone like Tiger (Chris Walker) wants to have a laugh with everyone and has a lot of mates at the station."



Joanna compares herself to Jackie in terms of the ambition that they both share. “I would like to think that I am as ambitious as Jackie but hopefully I’m kinder to other people than she is. That said, I’m not one of these people who is desperate to go to Hollywood. It would be a fantastic opportunity but I’m really enjoying the work I’m doing now.”

But there are distinct differences between the two. “Jackie isn’t really bothered about a personal life whereas Danny and I are engaged now. We were hoping to get married last summer but I was filming *Merseybeat* and then the football season started, so we will definitely get married next summer, although we haven’t set a date.”

## Josie D’Arby plays Jodie Finn



**Jodie Finn**  
**Rank:** Police Constable  
**Marital status:** Single

**Josie D’Arby**  
**Born:** Newport, Wales but now lives in London.  
**Studied:** RADA  
**Previous credits:** *Top Of The Pops*, *Bigger Breakfast*

### Did you know?

- Josie does a lot of work for the Red Cross and, in October, her work took her to South Africa.
- Josie’s favourite book is *Conversations With God* by Neale Donald Walsh.

The new series of *Merseybeat* signals a new start for PC Jodie Finn. The death of her close colleague, Steve Traynor (Jonathan Kerrigan), at the end of the last series, seems to have had a profound effect on her actions as she really throws herself into her job.

“I think Jodie was quite naive when she first started at Newton Park,” says D’Arby. “But in this series she’s become more confident in her ability to do the job which has been much more exciting to play. She’ll stand up to people, even her superiors, which she wouldn’t have done before. I think the fact that she is now confident has bled into the way that I felt on set as I have also become more confident. In effect, we’ve shared a similar experience. I was new to television acting and Jodie was new to police work, and we’ve both grown more confident in what we do.”

But that’s where the similarities stop as Josie is quick to point out that she couldn’t be more different to PC Finn, which was one of the reasons that she was attracted to the role.

“Jodie’s so completely different to me,” laughs D’Arby. “I’m a real pacifist and she’s a real tough character. And she can be so negative sometimes, always thinking that if things can go wrong, then they will, whereas I would never think like that.”

But Jodie’s tough character is really challenged in one episode where she and her colleague, PC Jackie Brown (Joanna Taylor), find a young boy whose father has gone off on holiday and left him on his own, a subject that sadly has become a headline-grabber in recent months.

“It was a great episode to film and very moving. The boy’s mother had left several years ago but Jodie gets involved and helps the boy to track her down. Gary Chan, who plays the young boy, was



brilliant but it was quite a harrowing episode for me to work on.”

In order to learn more about what it’s like to be a police officer in a busy northern city, Josie spent a day with the police force in Runcorn.

“It was such a diverse day,” recalls D’Arby. “I saw an armed robbery taking place and also spent time getting to know the local communities. As a result, I have a lot of respect for the police and what they do – they really lay themselves on the line and I know I couldn’t do it for real.

“I think a lot of what I saw is incorporated into Jodie’s character. She is certainly compassionate and she would go out of her way to help people. But if you’re not innocent then you don’t want to come up against Jodie!”

While playing Jodie Finn has certainly been a challenge for D’Arby, her biggest challenge to date has definitely been taking part in the Channel 4 series, *The Games*.

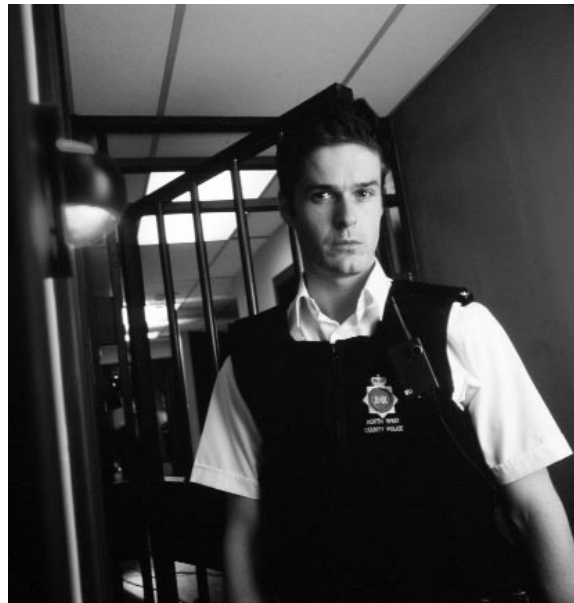
“I competed alongside Gail Hipgrave, ex-Spice Girl Mel C and James Hewitt,” explains D’Arby. “Basically, what they did was transform us into athletes over the space of three months. So, now I’m an accomplished ice skater, amongst other things!”

“I took part because I wanted to see how fit I could be in my lifetime. Now I’ve got an appreciation of how wonderful it feels to be this fit. I’m definitely going to keep it up.”

## Scot Williams plays Glenn Freeman

**Glenn Freeman**  
**Rank: Constable**  
**Marital status: Single**

**Scot Williams**  
**Born: Liverpool, but now living in London**  
**Previous credits: *Nice Guy Eddie, Serious And Organised***  
**Coming Up: Peter Greenaway’s film, *The Tulse Luper Suitcases***



### Did you know?

- Scot is a huge fan of the BAFTA-award winning BBC drama *Spooks* and admits it’s the only thing he makes sure he’s at home to watch.
- Scot’s uncle works on the coaching staff at Liverpool FC.

For someone so young, it’s hard to believe that Scot has achieved so much in such a short space of time. Yet, already he has starred in *Backbeat*, the film about The Beatles, several plays and TV shows including *Hillsborough* and *Nice Guy Eddie*. Now he’s joining the cast of popular police drama *Merseybeat*.

“I play a young police officer called PC Glenn Freeman,” explains Williams. “He’s very ambitious and wants to impress his superiors so that he can get into CID and so he does whatever it takes to get a result. Because he really doesn’t want to be a uniformed officer, I think he finds it difficult to get on with the rest of the team. Having said that, there’s some definite flirting with Jackie Brown (Joanna Taylor) but I think her eye’s elsewhere!

“It’s established in episode one of the new series that Glenn has a gambling problem. He’s trying to get a mortgage for a house and he could get any house but, with Glenn, it has to be a big house. He

wants everything big, he's got a nice sports car and wears nice clothes. So, he loses a lot of money gambling and is forced to moonlight, which is obviously against the rules. He's working in a karaoke bar which has its moments, especially when his superintendent and his sergeant come in on a stag do!"

All very comical but Scot's character isn't laughing when things take a serious turn...

"Glenn starts working for a chauffeur company which is far more serious. He gets caught up in a drugs deal and, because he is so ambitious, he effectively starts working undercover – against the advice of his colleagues. It all very nearly ends in tears. His job is threatened and you start to see who he is, that he desperately wants to be a good police officer but he's got this edge, which is dangerous, and he can't get away from it."

For Scot, this dark side to PC Glenn Freeman makes him all the more attractive to play. "I like to play any character that is unpredictable. I liken it to a spider when it runs across the floor and then it stops, and you don't know where it's going to go. I love that. For the first couple of episodes of *Merseybeat*, Glenn definitely has an edge, there's something going on between the lines that we don't really know about. A young man with a serious gambling addiction, you don't know who his friends are, you don't know who his wife is – you don't know anything about him."

It was important to Scot that the character of Glenn Freeman had quite a bit of depth and *Merseybeat* did give him the opportunity to have a hand in the character's development.

"Me and Mark (Womack) did a show called *Liverpool 1* a few years ago which was a gritty cop show set in Liverpool. And because they wanted to bring *Merseybeat* into Liverpool and make it more urban, we worked with the director and the producer to develop the characters. It was one of the main reasons that I wanted to work on the show."

Another opportunity afforded by working on *Merseybeat* was the chance to return to Liverpool, Scot's home town.

"I'm originally from the Penny Lane area. I live in London now, but I just went home for two or three months and it shocked me. It's so exciting, it's just gone nuts. But the reason I moved away from Liverpool was the real lack of ambition, it really felt sorry for itself a few years ago. Every time you opened the local press, it was 'Oh aren't we great? We've got The Beatles, we've got football, we've got great architecture,' and it was just clinging on to the past. As an actor, I was travelling to London 30 or 40 times a year for castings. When I did get work it was outside of Liverpool, so I had to move away. But I've been back and I've always stayed in contact with organisations like Bafta North and now it's like a little Hollywood, everything is filming there! There's a small but very successful film office; Bafta North are there and there's independent film producers. People don't have to leave the city to finish their films. You can do the whole thing in Liverpool and everyone is accommodating and friendly.

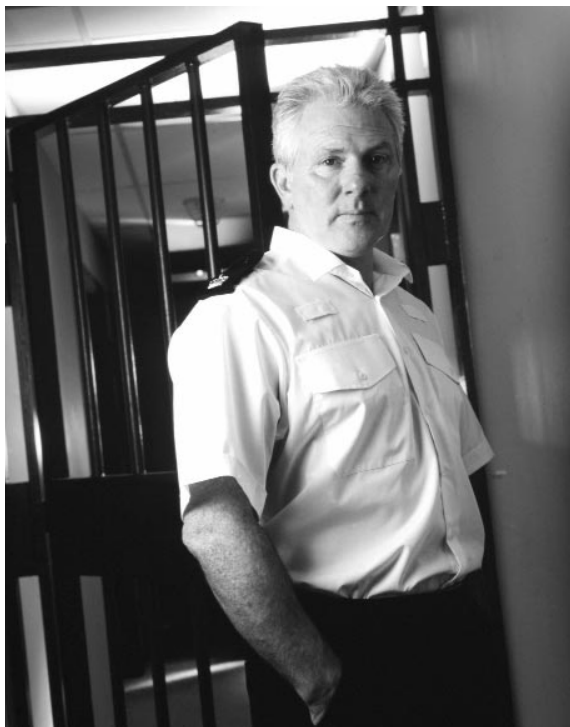
"I don't think I'll be able to move back but I'd like to have a base there. And I'm proud of it, that's where I'm from. I think there are several cities in the world that you have to live in at one stage in your life. London, New York, Paris, Rome – all exciting cultural, capital cities. I think Liverpool will be the second best city in Britain."

And there's another reason why Liverpool will always be special for Scot...

"I'm a big Liverpool fan. My uncle works on the coaching staff and I used to go when I was a boy. When I was 11 or 12 years old I went to the European semi-final second leg – Liverpool versus Panathinaikos. It was only when I grew up that I realised it was a European Cup semi final! It must be terrible being the young generation in Liverpool now. I've got friends with 12-year-old sons and they've never seen Liverpool win the league!"

## The rest of the team

**John McArdle is  
Superintendent Jim Oulton**



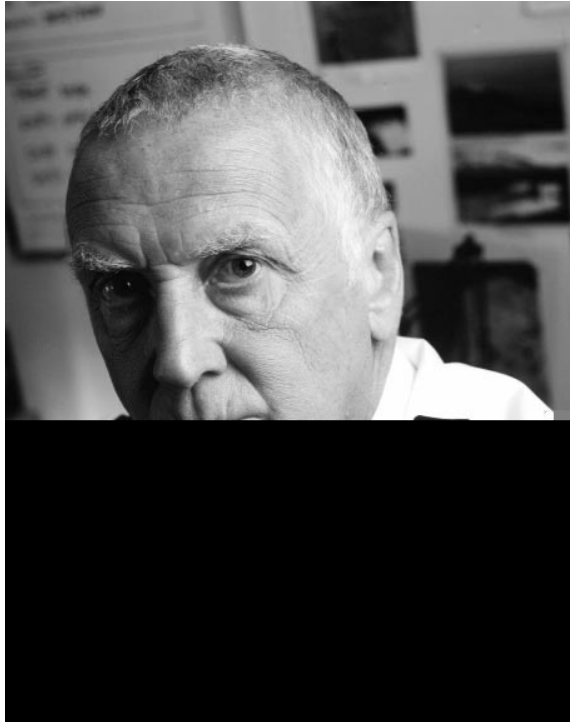
Jim has found it hard to juggle his personal and professional life over the past few months and the two have overlapped on several occasions. He has now been promoted to Superintendent following the departure of Susan Blake. Relishing his promotion, and with his marriage having failed, Jim throws himself into his job.

**Chris Walker is  
PC Larry Barton**



Better known as “Tiger”, PC Larry Barton has a kind heart and is often on hand to give words of advice to other members of the team. He always seems to be on the receiving end of bad luck but that could all change in this series as he prepares to remarry. He doesn’t like sticking to the rules and often bends them slightly to suit himself.

### David Hargreaves is Sergeant Bill Gentle



Bill works at the heart of the call centre. He's an old-style copper who has a point to prove to the rest of the team: that he is as fit as any of them. He therefore takes his job very seriously. He's always on hand to give advice to the new recruits or keep them in check when they step out of line.

### Claire Sweeney is DS Roz Kelly (episodes 7 and 8)



Roz Kelly joins the CID team as part of the drugs squad to investigate a drugs smuggling case which has ended in murder. DS Kelly is a strong-willed, feisty copper who's seen it – and done it – all before. This attitude immediately ruffles feathers amongst her new colleagues, not least DI Pete Hammond (Mark Womack). But DS Kelly also has a secret which, if revealed, could have far-reaching effects for both her personal life and her career.

## Synopses

### Episode 1 – Hearts And Minds

Kim and Tom Vale return from their honeymoon to sounds of a scuffle in the next door flat and a child screaming. Tom goes to investigate and finds 11-year-old Callum being attacked by a thug looking for money. Both Callum and Tom are injured. But why is Tom, even though he got a clear view of his attacker, so reluctant to testify?

At Newton Park police station, DI Pete Hammond (Mark Womack) knows the truth about why Tom Vale won't speak out but he too is reluctant to explain to Supt Jim Oulton (John McArdle). But when events take a tragic turn and the case becomes a murder investigation, it may be that some home truths will have to be faced by all parties.

### Episode 2 – Warrior Moon

PCs Larry Barton (Chris Walker) and Glenn Freeman (Scot Williams) discover a dead woman in the river. Her husband breaks down in the interview room and thinks he must have killed her while having one of his frequent stress-related attacks. DI Pete Hammond (Mark Womack) is delighted to have a result but Inspector Charlie Eden (Leslie Ash) isn't so sure...

Relationships are further strained at Newton Park as PC Larry Barton (Chris Walker) has to face up to the tragic aftermath of a police car chase which went wrong, while DI Pete Hammond and Charlie Eden find that past romantic liaisons have a habit of catching up with them.

### Episode 3 – Broken Dreams

PCs Jackie Brown (Joanna Taylor) and Jodie Finn (Josie D'Arby) are dealing with the case of a "home alone" kid. Young Lewis Roe has been left in the house while his dad has been cavorting in Majorca, but Lewis's mum left the family home some time ago. Can Jodie reunite Lewis with his mother?

Meanwhile, the situation between DIs Pete Hammond (Mark Womack) and Charlie Eden (Leslie Ash) has become increasingly tense – it's looking impossible that they can ever bury their differences and work together. But for PC Larry Barton (Chris Walker), tensions of a different kind beckon – it's his wedding day.

### Episode 4 – True Colours

Kerry Johnstone is arrested for stealing a baby from a maternity unit, but is she a distraught mother who deserves understanding or are her motives rather more sinister?

At the same time, DI Pete Hammond (Mark Womack) is investigating a local adoption agency. He needs to find out whether the agency is offering babies for sale to the highest bidders. He and DI Charlie Eden (Leslie Ash) pose as a couple who are desperate to adopt, but playing husband and wife is rather too close to home as secrets kept for 15 years are finally revealed. Where do Pete and Charlie go from here?

Back at Newton Park station, Liverpool footballer Danny Murphy turns up to make a presentation to Sgt Cartwright's (Gary Cargill) under-11 girls football team. But for Supt Jim Oulton (John McArdle), an ardent Everton fan, this proves to be a step too far.

### Episode 5 – Angels With Dirty Faces

Maureen Bradshaw reports that her late father has had £25,000 stolen from under his bed – but the only visitor he had before he died was local priest Father Hopkirk. Early investigations discover that Father Hopkirk is coincidentally raising money to send a local boy to America for a life-saving operation – surely the priest can't be in the frame? But when it emerges that Albie Bradshaw is an ex-armed robber, is a different kind of morality at work?

Meanwhile, an unsound conviction comes back to haunt Sgt Bill Gentle (David Hargreaves) when he attends the funeral of a man he put away for murder. Gentle revives his former partnership with retired copper Bernard Oulton (Supt Jim Oulton's father) to turn over some old stones. Did they really get it so wrong all those years ago? And, if they did, who was really the guilty party?

## Episode 6 – Repeat Offender

There is a serial rapist on the loose but his latest attack ends in failure and is witnessed by a young boy. DI Pete Hammond (Mark Womack) needs to crack the case before the rapist strikes again, but Supt Jim Oulton (John McArdle), still feeling like a fish out of water as “the man upstairs”, wants to be involved in the case too. It's crucial that the two men bury their differences to get a result.

Station receptionist Natalie Vance's (Tupele Dorgu) brother is brought in for stealing cars. PC Glenn Freeman (Scot Williams) believes he is fronting an operation that procures expensive cars to order and sells them on. When Natalie confronts her brother with the truth, she faces an agonising dilemma: does she turn him in to save him from a long-term career in crime ... and the nick?

## Episode 7 – Distant Vices

A young drug smuggler has been horrifically murdered, but the victim, Clare Robinson, is a model student with a blameless past. What could have convinced her to smuggle drugs into the UK from Jamaica?

DS Roz Kelly (Claire Sweeney), from Newton Park Drugs Squad, is brought in to help DI Pete Hammond (Mark Womack) but their investigations throw up more questions than answers, until they meet up with Helen, a girl Clare met while travelling 18 months previously. DS Kelly and DI Hammond know that Helen is hiding something, but the question is, what?

All is not what it seems for DS Roz Kelly either. Who is the man who loiters outside the station,

waiting for her? It seems that Kelly also has something to hide ...

## Episode 8 – Day Of Reckoning

Fifteen-year-old Amy Wright has fallen in love with a man from an internet chat room. PCs Larry Barton (Chris Walker) and Jackie Brown (Joanna Taylor) are called in to investigate after Amy's mother raises concerns that the man might be older (and more dangerous) than he seems. Larry risks everything on a strategy of posing as Amy in order to lure the man out into the open...

DS Roz Kelly (Claire Sweeney) has an unwelcome reunion with her armed robber father, Eddie Lewis. She suspects he's working on another job and warns him off. But taking a different kind of interest in Lewis's visit is DI Pete Hammond (Mark Womack), who decides to do some digging of his own. An altercation with Gary Naylor, a local hard case with a reputation for selling guns, leaves Hammond for dead on a deserted building site. Can he be reached in time?